Kansas Preservation

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REAL PLACES. REAL STORIES.

The Ultimate Road Trip

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KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter of the Cultural
Resources Division
Kansas Historical Society

Contents

KANSAS PRESERVATION

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Jennie Chinn, State Historic Preservation Officer
Patrick Zollner, Deputy SHPO, Editor
Linda Kunkle Park, Graphic Designer

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Preservation in the News

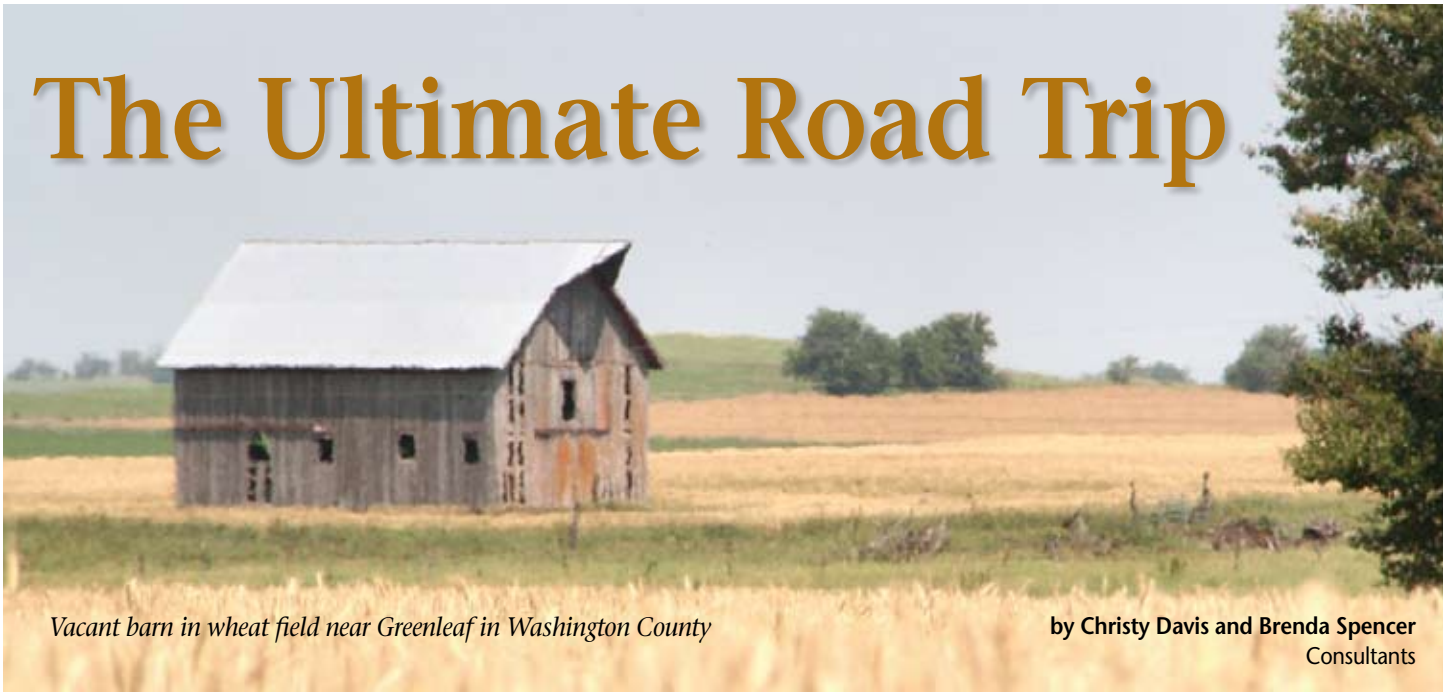
Sumner Elementary School, a National Historic Landmark for its association with the landmark 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* civil rights case, has been listed as one of the 11 Most Endangered Historic Places by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The National Trust chooses 11 sites annually to highlight important examples of the nation's architectural, cultural, and natural heritage that are at risk for destruction or irreparable damage. Sumner School, which is owned by the city of Topeka, is currently unoccupied and deteriorating. The city recently announced that it was extending the deadline for Community First, Inc., to raise the funds needed to meet the requirements to acquire the former school and rehabilitate it into a school and community center.

To read more about the Sumner School's 11 Most Endangered listing:

- **National Trust For Historic Preservation preservationnation.org**
- **"Civil Rights School on list of 11 endangered sites" cnn.com – May 21, 2008**
- **"Sumner named to endangered list" cjonline.com – May 20, 2008**
- **"Group given more time to develop Sumner plan" cjonline.com – June 11, 2008**

Read more Preservation in the News, see "Tornados," on page 15.

The Ultimate Road Trip



Vacant barn in wheat field near Greenleaf in Washington County

by Christy Davis and Brenda Spencer
Consultants

A growing interest in the state's rural heritage has shed light on the scarcity of information related to the state's historic agricultural resources. The Kansas Historical Society (KSHS) hopes that its recently completed study of the state's barns will be just the first step in identifying and preserving the buildings and landscapes that interpret the state's rich agricultural past.

In spring 2007 the Historical Society awarded preservation consultant Brenda Spencer a contract to conduct a survey of historic barns in the state and to develop a historic context and a Multiple Property Documentation Form to facilitate property-owner-sponsored National Register nominations. With assistance and cooperation from the Kansas Barn Alliance and Kansas Electric Cooperative (KEC), Spencer identified hundreds of Kansas barns. From June 15 through the end of summer, Spencer traveled 12,000 miles surveying 352 barns in 84 of the state's 105 counties.

The following article features interesting excerpts from the new *Historic Agriculture-Related Resources in Kansas* multiple property nomination and outlines the property types for historic Kansas barns.

A primary goal of the project is to encourage property owners to list their eligible building and barns and other agricultural buildings and structures in the National Register of Historic Places. Such listings will make barns eligible to take advantage of existing financial incentives for preservation and maintenance of historic properties. The article on page 8 outlines the process for owners interested in listing their barns.

Property Types

The *Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas* multiple property nomination accommodates individual National Register listings of not only barns but also intact historic farmsteads including primary and secondary buildings and structures such as farmhouses, granaries, elevators, corn cribs, chicken houses, windmills, and fencing.

Through survey and research the consultants identified seven prominent property types that represent the most common styles of barns in Kansas. These classifications are based largely on dominant exterior characteristics such as roof form. Other important distinctions such as construction types and interior features are listed as secondary classifications because they are not readily distinguishable from the building's exterior. The most common secondary classifications are "timber-frame" structures and "catalog or kit barns."

Bank Barns

Bank barns tend to be among the earliest extant Kansas barns and are characterized by exterior at-grade entrances on two different levels. Most are built into the side of a hill or bank, which creates a natural ramp that provides access to the barn's

Left to right, large wood-frame bank barn constructed in 1901 on the Hodgson farm near Little River in Rice County; small native limestone bank barn built in 1905, located near Wilson in Ellsworth County.

upper level, usually on the broad side. The category includes those built into a hill, as well as those with earthen or masonry ramps providing access to the upper level. Most "basement" barns are included in this category as long as the basement is accessed from the exterior at-grade. Bank barns are distinguished by the lack of a hay hood. Hay was typically loaded from inside the barn in large barns or through small gable-end openings in small masonry bank barns. The most common bank barns are masonry but wood-frame bank barns with masonry foundations are also widespread. Reflecting Pennsylvania-Dutch influences, bank barns are prevalent in the northeast part of the state but found in each region of Kansas.

Gable-Roof and Gambrel-Roof Barns

The majority of Kansas barns fall into gable- and gambrel-roof barn property types, which are distinguished solely by the roof forms. Gable-roof and gambrel-roof barns are typically 1-1/2 to 2 stories high with stalls and/or stanchions flanking a central aisle on the ground floor and haymow above, usually with a hay hood and large hay door. The gambrel roof emerged as a dominant roof type in large part due to the fact that it expanded the volume of the haymow by eliminating interior supports. Although barns with gable- or gambrel-end openings are most prominent, barns with the primary opening in the broad side are also categorized by the roof form (also known as three-bay or threshing barns). The most common gable and gambrel roof barns are wood frame with stone or concrete foundations and vertical or horizontal wood siding. However, a majority of concrete barns have gambrel roofs and are classified in the same category. The property types also include barns with shed bays on the rear and/or one side. Barns with symmetrical shed bays (one on each side) are generally classified as Midwest Prairie Barns.

Midwest Prairie Barns

The Midwest Prairie Barn property type is distinguished by wide sweeping roofs and horizontal orientation. This category includes three styles of barns: those gable- and gambrel-roof barns with symmetrical side shed bays giving the barn a wide sweeping roof; large barns, typically built for stock and hay, that are wider than they are tall; and smaller gable-roof barns with flanking side bays giving the barn an almost square form. The property type includes barns classified elsewhere as Prairie, Feeder, and Western barns. Midwest Prairie Barns are typically wood-frame with concrete foundations and wood siding. The barns in this category include both gable and gambrel roofs and the roofs generally include prominent hay hoods.

Arched-Roof Barns

This category includes both rounded and pointed (Gothic) arch roof barns, distinguished predominantly by the roof forms. The most common are wood-frame structures with vertical wood siding. They typically have hay hoods. These barns were popular in the 1920s and 1930s when farmers placed a premium on space for hay storage (the arched roof allowed a free-span haymow with no interior posts). Sears and Roebuck's 1919 Barn Catalog featured arched-roof barns on the front and back covers.

Round/Polygonal Barns

Round and polygonal barns are identified by the round or polygonal plan form and generally feature a dome, conical, or polygonal roof. Some such structures were built around a central silo; some feature a haymow accessed by a track through a dormer. These barns are typically wood with a concrete or stone foundation and have vertical wood siding or curved clapboard. Benton Steele, the nation's best-known



Left to right, gable-roof barn with broad-side opening and rear shed bay near Alta Vista in Wabaunsee County; traditional gambrel-roof barn near Bird City in Cheyenne County; and gambrel-roof barn with shed bay on one side, near Natoma in Rooks County.

round barn builder, moved to Halstead in 1909 and built several round barns in Kansas including the Stump Barn near Blue Rapids in Marshall County.

Kansas Vernacular Barns

Barns in this property type are distinguished by the use of native materials, typically limestone, and complex roof forms. Because these barns are generally masonry construction, they typically lack hay hoods with large doors and, instead, usually have a small dormer with a door or window for loading the hay. Although the most common vernacular barns are small square stone structures with hip roofs, the property type also includes the unique and expansive masonry and wood-frame structures distinguished primarily by the complex roof forms.

A Brief History of Kansas Agriculture

For the past half century, as the state has become increasingly suburbanized, many Kansans have lost their connection to the state's agricultural identity and have yet to learn about the state's cutting-edge role in the development and advancement of the agricultural technology that allowed for the state's settlement. Saving the state's agriculture-related buildings requires an appreciation for the history these buildings help interpret.

The beginnings of Kansas agriculture date back not to the period of white settlement, but to 1000 AD, when American Indians established the first farm villages and cultivated corn, squash, and beans.

When Euro-American missionaries and Indian agents were sent to Indian Territory to "civilize" both the native and emigrant tribes, their "civilized" farm implements and crops were often no more advanced than those the Indians had been using for centuries. Kansas pioneer Sherman Young recalled that his father's crude implements included "a double shovel, two wooden beams, stirring plow and an axe." With these simple tools, Young broke the sod and planted corn "by chopping an opening in the ground with one stroke of his axe, dropping in three kernels of corn and then stepping on the opening to cover the corn."

In the years preceding and immediately following the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854, the majority of early white settlers, like Shawnee Methodist missionary Thomas Johnson, hailed from Missouri. By March 1855, at the time of the



Left to right, Midwest Prairie Barn with gambrel roof and symmetrical shed bays on each side that form sweeping roofline, near Phillipsburg in Phillips County; traditional Prairie Barn built for hay storage and designed for hay to be stacked on the ground in the center bay. Barn was built of used lumber in 1935, located near McCune in Crawford County; and small Prairie Barn with gable roof and flanking shed bays near Spearville, Ford County.



Left to right, Arched-Roof Barn with a pointed (Gothic) arch roof was built in 1926 from a kit ordered from the Sears Catalog Company. Barn is located near Fowler in Meade County; interior framing of large round barn designed by reknown barn builder Benton Steel and constructed in 1911. Barn is located near Blue Rapids in Marshall County; Polygonal Barn built in 1907 with central silo, located near Edna in Labette County.

election of the First Territorial Legislature, Missourians and other persons from the "Upper South" outnumbered other settlers by nearly three to one. These westward-pushing white settlers had been held by the Kansas-Missouri border for the 30 years after Missouri gained statehood.

The territory's future rested not only on the settlers who made it home but also on the nature of its soil. Before railroads, when communities were self-sustaining, farmers were essential to a pioneer community's success. Only two of the New England Emigrant Aid Company's first wave of 29 emigrants were farmers. The obvious need for farmers inspired the *Kansas Free State* newspaper to declare that "Every person who knows anything about farming, can make money on a claim from the very day that he goes on it." The free-state farmers' chances for profit improved with the purchase of new farm implements, ironically obtained in the proslavery stronghold of Westport, Missouri. Sodbusters, for instance, cut plowing time in half.

Some Kansans, including Jayhawker James H. Lane, argued that Kansas might have become a slave state if its soil and climate were better suited to southern cash crops. Despite its relative proximity to "Little Dixie" in the Missouri River Valley, Missouri farmers soon learned that Kansas soil was not conducive to the cultivation of hemp and cotton. In contrast, settlers from the North and Old Northwest Territory found that the Kansas climate supported the crops they had grown at home, particularly corn.

Still, most came not to settle the slavery question, but simply to farm. Samuel Reader, who came to Kansas from La Harpe, Illinois, said that "Rich, cheap farm land was the principal incentive that lured me on from my Illinois home. I had heard and read much concerning the political troubles in the territory; but ... In fact I had given little thought to the subject."

Lured by the prospects of cheap land, settlers continued to pour into Kansas after the Civil War. The 1860 platform of the new Republican Party demanded "the passage by Congress of the complete and satisfactory Homestead measure." After southern states seceded following the election of Abraham Lincoln, Congress had the votes it needed to pass the Homestead Act. Despite the "free land" incentive, the majority of homesteaders failed to meet their end of the bargain. In fact, only 41 percent of filers succeeded in gaining title to homestead land.

By the time the Homestead Act passed, the act's subsistence agriculture premise was nearing obsolescence. As new implements allowed fewer farmers to till more land, the percentage of American workers employed as farmers plummeted from 90 to 47.7 percent. In the post-war years, as industrialized cities provided farmers with cheap manufactured goods, farmers moved past subsistence to cash production. The Kansas Board of Agriculture reported that between 1866 and 1878 the state climbed from 25th to 4th in the production of corn, the state's first successful cash crop.

Ironically, the 1874 grasshopper plague drove the state's farmers to exchange one cash crop for another – wheat. By the time the grasshoppers destroyed the Kansas corn crop in 1874, the wheat had already been harvested. The events earned wheat the reputation as a "safe alternative" to corn. First planted at the Shawnee Methodist Mission in 1839, wheat became a staple in the 1870s as settlers moved into central Kansas, which was particularly well-suited to the crop. Between 1866 and 1878, just four years after the grasshopper plague, Kansas rose to national dominance in wheat production, climbing nationally from 24th to 1st.

During the 1870s and 1880s, as railroads sold land to immigrants and broadened the market for cash crops, Kansas farmers became increasingly dependent on wheat. This

Left to right, native limestone square barn with hip roof featuring gable wall dormers on each side, located near Dorrance in Russell County; large barn with multi-faceted hip roof constructed c.1900 on the Weisner Ranch located near Allen in Wabaunsee County.

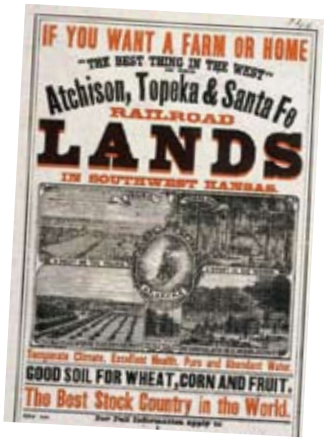
epidemic, which detractors called "wheat on the brain," drove western Kansas town boosters like Garden City's Buffalo Jones to invest millions in irrigation systems to turn grazing land to farmland.

Although corn and wheat provided Kansas farmers the cash they needed to purchase manufactured goods, the shift from diversified subsistence to specialized cash farming left Kansas farmers particularly vulnerable to cyclical climate changes. The irrigation ditches could not save farmers and ranchers from the drought, blizzards, and panics that beset the late 1880s. The Blizzard of 1886 wiped out an estimated 75 percent of the cattle in Kansas ranching counties, leaving many of the survivors bankrupt. Between 1887 and 1891, Finney County's population plunged from 10,000 to 5,000.

Cash production also inhibited farmers' ability to endure economic downturns. In an effort to produce more wheat, farmers invested in new equipment. By the time the bad years came, farmers had come to rely on cash to trade for goods they historically would have produced themselves. Put simply, they sold their fruit and bought it back in cans. Unable to make mortgage payments and without the cash to buy necessities, many farmers could not ride out the storm. By 1890 a third of Kansas farmers no longer owned the ground they tilled.

As farmers, suddenly a minority, defaulted on mortgages, they became increasingly suspicious of the railroads, and the rising professional class of industrial capitalists and bankers who seemed to be making more off their farms than they did. In 1890 the Kansas Secretary of Agriculture reported that farmers spent 21 cents to produce a bushel of corn. The average price for corn was 15 cents. An agrarian revolt, known as the Populist Movement, ensued – and activists like attorney Mary Elizabeth Lease were advising farmers to "raise less corn and more hell."

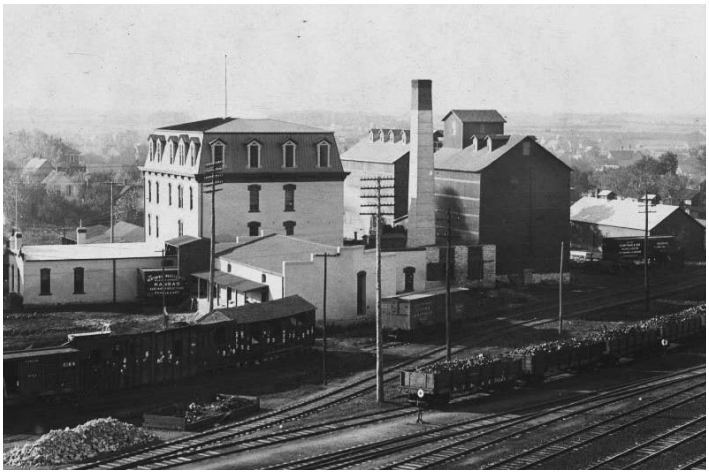
A greater emphasis was placed on wheat following the 1874 grasshopper plague. The earlier harvest left this grasshopper to starve.



This Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway advertisement promoted southwest Kansas as a place with "good soil for wheat, corn and fruit."

The Kansas farm economy did not recover until the first two decades of the 20th century, a period dubbed the "Golden Age of Agriculture." As the United States fed war-torn Europe during World War I, crop prices reached an all-time high – providing farmers with the cash needed to purchase cars and tractors. As in most times of war, production increased. The prices held until Europe recovered and supply grew, sending prices crashing in the early 1920s. Once again, farmers had invested in equipment only to drive down crop prices through over-production.

As the market became glutted, prices fell. And farmers, who could no longer make payments on their property and equipment, faced an economic downturn that stretched from the end of World War I until the beginning of World War II. Those who diversified, such as farmers who put up silage and operated dairies, faired better than others. Many farmers moved to town in the 1920s, where some took jobs in agriculture-related industries.



The wheat boom drove a milling boom, epitomized by Bernhard Warkentin's Newton Milling Company.

Many politicians and farmers blamed the economic troubles on an increase in farm tenancy. During the 1920s, 40 percent of all farmers rented their land. Although the percentage of farm tenants declined nationwide during the 1930s, it grew in the Great Plains where, by 1940, almost half of all farmers rented the land they tilled. Some saw tenancy as a way for hard-working men without land to enter farming. But the days when any man could "pull himself up from his bootstraps" to make a comfortable living in farming were over. These farmers, some argued, had no interest in the land they farmed. Their only goal was to squeeze as much profit as possible, leaving depleted soil for the next tenant.

In 1926 the USDA reported that one-third of rented farms suffered from decreased soil fertility. The tenancy problem became a presidential campaign issue for Kansan Alf Landon, who said "the stability of civilization depends upon the ownership of the land by the man who works the land."

If necessity is the mother of invention, the Great Depression was the mother of necessity. Farmers, already cash-strapped from the 1920s, found ingenious ways to address their needs with little capital investment. When necessary, farmers stored hay and equipment in boxcars and even houses abandoned by neighbors when fires or tornadoes destroyed their barns.

Demand for wheat and corn spiked again during World War II – and as in most wars, labor shortages drove technological advances. Despite the use of labor saving equipment, such as Farmall tractors, and newfound reliance on custom cutters, more than half of Kansas farmers reported labor shortages on their farms in 1943. Because of the importance the government placed on farm production, farmers were given occupational exemptions from military service. These efforts were futile in keeping farmers "down on the farm" as high-paying urban war-industry jobs proved for many an irresistible draw. In 1942 Wichita's Cessna Aircraft, which paid nearly $1 per hour, reported that 80 percent of its workforce came from farms. To compete, farmers were forced to raise the salaries for their workers. During the war the average farm hand's wage quadrupled from $20 per month to $80 per month including room and board.

The federal government stepped in to ease labor shortages. One successful government program was the Women's Land Army (WLA), a subsidiary of the Emergency Farm Labor Program. Women from all walks of life responded to radio ads, enlisted in the WLA, and, after completing "Tractorette Courses," worked on farms. Thirty percent of those enlisted in the WLA hauled grain. Others drove trucks, tractors, and combines. The WLA had a presence in the extension office of each Kansas county, with enlistees training at Kansas State Agricultural College. In 1944 the Kansas WLA roster included farm wives, daughters, farmers' relatives and friends, and "city girls."

Left to right, a plow turning virgin soil; a farmer digging his plow from a dust drift; Kansas Secretary of Agriculture F. B. Coburn shows off some Kansas corn during the Golden Age of Agriculture.

Farmers in some Kansas communities benefited from the labor of German prisoners of war. In 1943 the federal government imported 450,000 POWs from Hitler's Afrika Korps. Camp Phillips near Salina, with a capacity of 3,000, and Camp Concordia, with a capacity of 4,000, were among the nation's largest POW compounds. Because many of the POWs had farming backgrounds, they provided an invaluable resource to strapped Kansas farmers. Farmers were required to pick up POWs in groups of four before 8 a.m., and return them to camp by 6 p.m. Despite instructions not to befriend these laborers, many farmers, particularly those who spoke German, bonded with POWs who worked alongside them.

Farmers prospered during the war. The annual net income of southern plains wheat growers exploded by 2,000 percent between 1939 and 1945. The improved quality of life did not continue in the postwar years. By 1949, when most Americans were reaping the benefits of a postwar boom, the median income of the average farm family was little more than half of the median income of the average American family.

Farming changed significantly in the postwar years. Corporate farming, which had arrived by the early 20th century and was outlawed in 1931, again gained a foothold. Corporate farmers argued that the only way for farming to survive was to increase acreage and production and decrease capital outlay. In 1940 the average farm was 174 acres. By 1974 farms averaged 385 acres. Between 1950 and 1975 farm output increased 59 percent.

Corporate methods also succeeded in hog and cattle production after the war. Whereas past ranchers had shipped live cattle from ranches to meat packing plants in cities like Kansas City and Chicago, grain-fed cows resided on feedlots near rural meat packing plants by the 1960s. Between 1952 and 1974 the number of large-capacity feedlots grew from seven to 140. Corporate farming continued to be controversial, particularly as corporate hog farms located near cities like Great Bend and as meatpacking companies relied on immigrant labor.

This history of Kansas agriculture provides the context for the construction of the state's barns and other agriculture-related buildings. Since the territorial period, the story of Kansas agriculture has been a story of change and adaptation. As farming has become increasingly mechanized, the vast majority of Kansans have turned their attention to other pursuits. Still, the agricultural character of the state has endured in both its people and places.

The state's farm buildings interpret economic cycles. For instance, many such buildings were constructed during the early 1880s and in the years immediately following World War I, when farmers benefited from record-high crop prices. And very few buildings date to the 1930s.

Unfortunately, as farms grow and fewer families are needed to till the land, historic farmsteads – many of them vacated – have become increasingly threatened. Despite inevitable change, the identification and protection of buildings that serve as the legacy of the state's agricultural heritage must not be left to chance.

The federal government established the Women's Land Army to help farmers weather the war-time labor shortage.

Acknowledgements

Numerous people participated in this project. Brenda Spencer would like, foremost, to acknowledge all of those who were willing to share their barns and accommodate her site visits at all hours, even during harvest. Additionally, Spencer extends a special thanks to individuals including her local tour guides in Decatur and Osborne counties, the gentleman in Jewell County who pulled her out when she discovered that her all-wheel-drive Subaru did have its limits, Mr. Grafel who exterminated the rattlesnake, Mr. Nevil for introducing her to the Gypsum Hills, Mrs. Lovelady for the picnic, and Judith for a necessary respite on more than one occasion. It really was the ultimate road trip! Christy Davis would like to thank the staff of the Kansas Historical Society, including the helpful staff at the State Archives & Library. In addition, she would like to thank those at Kansas State University's Special Collections, and her optometrist for correcting her research-weary vision.

Brenda Spencer and **Christy Davis** each operate preservation consulting businesses.

Spencer grew up in Rogersville, Missouri, and came to Kansas State University to attend the College of Architecture and Design. She lives on a small farm in rural Pottawatomie County and established her preservation consulting firm in 1994. Christy Davis is a fifth-generation Kansan who grew up on a farm near Sedgwick, Kansas. Davis was formerly the assistant director of the Cultural Resources Division at the Kansas Historical Society and established her consulting firm, Davis Preservation, in 2007.

Listing Your Barn in the National Register of Historic Places

We encourage owners of barns or other agricultural structures who are interested in taking advantage of this project and preservation programs available through the Kansas Historical Society to nominate their properties for historic designation.

Listing in the Register of Historic Kansas Places or the National Register of Historic Places is the basic threshold to be eligible for incentive programs. The following checklist outlines the process for listing a barn (or any property) in the state or National Register of Historic Places.

1. Eligibility for Listing

You must determine whether your property is eligible for listing in the National Register. Although criteria do allow some former alterations, properties must generally portray the historic character to be eligible for listing.

- If your barn was part of the survey, contact KSHS to confirm that the barn was deemed eligible for listing.
- If your barn has not been surveyed, contact KSHS and you will receive a PSIQ form (Preliminary Site Investigation Questionnaire). Complete and submit the two-page form, which requires a basic history and description of the property, along with interior and exterior photos. Owners will receive an official letter indicating whether the property is eligible for listing in the National Register.

If property is deemed eligible, move to step 2.

2. National Register Nomination

The barns project resulted in a Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) for *Historic Agriculture-Related Resources in Kansas*. Eligible barns can be nominated under this multiple property nomination. Nominating a property under this format is easier than individually listing a property but still requires completing a National Register nomination form – a four-page cover form that is submitted with a statement of significance, a physical description of the property, and quality photographs. The MPDF provides a history of Kansas agriculture and identifies the most common types of barns in Kansas. KSHS will provide owners with a sample of a similar nomination for a guide.

- Submit draft of National Register nomination
- KSHS staff review
- Address KSHS comments

When you have completed meeting the nomination requirements, it will be scheduled for the next quarterly Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review meeting.

3. Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review (HSBR)

Nominations approved by the board are officially listed in the Register of Historic Kansas Places following the meeting and forwarded to the National Park Service for listing in the National Register.

- Official listing in the National Register will take several weeks but is typically a formality following approval by HSBR.

4. National Register Listing

Properties listed in the state or National Register of Historic Places are eligible to take advantage of incentive programs through the Kansas Historical Society. Existing financial incentives include:

- Heritage Trust Fund – a competitive annual reimbursement grant program
- Kansas Rehabilitation Tax Credit – a state income tax credit equal to 25 percent of qualified expenditures on listed properties
- Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit – a federal income tax credit equal to 20 percent of qualified expenditures on income-producing listed properties

These programs are designed to help make maintaining historic buildings more feasible.

Visit the KSHS website at kshs.org, or contact Sarah Martin at 785-272-8681, ext. 216, for more information on the barns project or listing your barn in the National Register.

BEFORE THE STORM:

How Will Your Community Handle Damaged Historic Buildings After a Disaster?

The sad scene of communities picking up the pieces of what's left from a destructive storm is all too familiar during tornado season in Kansas. We can't avoid disasters, but there are ways to lessen the effects and to better prepare for the destruction they leave behind.

by Sarah Martin
National Register Coordinator

Is your community prepared for a disaster? Are you prepared?

A community with good information about pre-disaster infrastructure and post-disaster funding options can make all the difference in how well it recovers. Historic properties can be especially vulnerable during disaster recovery because they do not fit into a convenient mold. They come in all shapes and sizes and include downtown buildings, churches, schools, and private residences. Historic building materials can be challenging to work with, requiring qualified architects and contractors.

Saving historic buildings may not be the top priority in a community that is dealing with rebuilding schools and maintaining basic services. However, even during disaster recovery and debris removal local governments are required to ensure the protection of cultural resources. While government-issued state of emergency declarations can "expedite" typical federal, state, and local environmental protection laws and permitting processes, which allows for quicker clean up and demolition, this does not eliminate the requirement that these entities must comply with protective laws and regulations.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), to identify properties eligible for or listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This allows the government to adequately consider the effect of any FEMA-funded undertaking – including potential demolition of private and public property – on identified historic properties.

Documenting downtowns and historic neighborhoods in anticipation of disasters through periodic field surveys is the

Field surveyors walk through a historic neighborhood documenting house styles and photographing the streetscapes.

Documenting a commercial district can prove valuable if a disaster strikes. Field surveyors discuss the alterations to these historic buildings.

best way to collect information. Simply having access to information after a disaster is helpful, but a field survey also can be used as the basis for local visitor-based promotional brochures or walking guides and to integrate historic resources into local planning and permitting procedures.

A comprehensive historic resources survey of Greensburg would have been useful to show what buildings had been where as that community scrambled to salvage anything after a tornado in May 2007. A tornado recently hit Chapman severely damaging key downtown and public buildings; floods devastated parts of southeast Kansas in 2007 hitting Coffeyville and Montgomery County especially hard; and a fire destroyed several historic buildings in downtown Fort Scott in 2005. Some historic buildings in these affected areas had been previously surveyed and documented, but a comprehensive survey and register listing could have opened doors to rehabilitation funds for historic buildings.

More often properties fall victim to small-scale disasters such as collapsing roofs and falling parapets. These require immediate action and do not always allow the time needed to conduct an assessment of the building's historic character.

Historic rehabilitation incentives available from the Kansas Historical Society and other organizations such as the National Trust for Historic Preservation typically require buildings to be listed in the Register of Historic Kansas Places or the National Register of Historic Places. There are currently no emergency provisions in place to list a property in either register. Nominations of properties to these registers are reviewed and approved quarterly, and historic rehabilitation grants and tax credits are not available until a building is listed in one of these registers. Many historic buildings are not included in the registers and, therefore, would not qualify for historic rehabilitation incentives.

The Historic Preservation Fund grant program, administered by the Kansas State Historic Preservation Office, provides matching funds to communities for preservation planning projects such as survey documentation, National Register nominations, and disaster preparedness plans. A free grant workshop will be held August 20, 2008, for all potential applicants. The grant application deadline is November 17, 2008. (See story page 11.) The office maintains a list of consultants who conduct historic resource surveys. Please call 785-272-8681, ext. 240, if you wish to learn more.

Communities and property owners cannot avoid disasters and their effects, but they can be better prepared by arming themselves with information.

2009 Historic Preservation Workshop

The Kansas State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will host a workshop in August focusing on the 2009 federal Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) grant program with an additional afternoon informational session on surveying historic resources and preparing nominations to the National Register of Historic Places for historic districts. The workshop will cover the eligibility requirements and the application process for the HPF grant program. The workshop will conclude with ample time for questions from workshop attendees.

by Katrina L. Ringler
Grants Manager/CLG Coordinator

This is not a Heritage Trust Fund (HTF) grant workshop. HTF workshops for the 2009 grant round will be held September – December 2008. Dates for these workshops are listed on the back cover of this newsletter.

Each year the SHPO awards HPF grants to organizations such as historical societies, universities, regional planning commissions, non-profit corporations, and city and county governments to help support local historic preservation activities. These competitive grants are used to fund historic property surveys, National Register nominations, preservation plans, design-review guidelines, and educational activities such as brochures, conferences, and workshops.

An HPF grant must result in a completed, tangible product, and all activities must pertain to the preservation programs outlined in the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. The grant monies may be used to fund up to 60 percent of project costs. The other 40 percent (recipient match) must be furnished by the project sponsor and may be provided through cash or in-kind services and materials.

The 2009 HPF workshop will be held 10 a.m. – 12 noon Wednesday, August 20, in the Museum Classrooms, Kansas Historical Society, 6425 SW 6th Avenue, Topeka. Following the workshop, 1:30 – 4:30 p.m., an informational session will be held in the same location to explain the process of surveying historic resources and the potential for using that survey information to nominate residential neighborhoods and commercial areas to the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district.

Reservations for the workshops are not required, but in the interest of providing sufficient seating, please call Cindi Vahsholtz, 785-272-8681, ext. 245, with attendance information.

The SHPO staff will gladly review and comment upon preliminary HPF grant applications. The deadline for preliminary grant applications is October 1, 2008. Final applications must be post-marked no later than November 17, 2008, or delivered in person to the SHPO by 4:30 p.m. on that date.

For more information, contact Katrina Ringler, grants manager, 785-272-8681, ext. 215, kringler@kshs.org; or visit kshs.org/resource/hpfinfo.htm.

The Historic Preservation Fund is just one of the many programs available to help communities preserve their cultural resources.

Exploring History

As you are reading this newsletter article I would imagine that most of you are history enthusiasts, as myself. If in the routine of our busy days, we stop to take a moment to see and listen, we can actually observe history.

by Rick Anderson
Kansas Historical Society Intern

History surrounds us in our landscapes and buildings. What I did not realize until this spring was that I had been an "explorer" and observer of history many years ago. As a child growing up in rural northeast Kansas, I had to find my own excitement and challenges. There were no video games, iPods, or home computers. I had my bicycle, minibike, and my feet. My friends and I would trek three or four miles to explore a creek and the abandoned farms along its banks. Today I can still hear the breeze in the maples, hear and feel the water in the creek, and remember the smell of the old buildings, only to wonder why they were in that state of disrepair and abandonment. Thus, we were explorers!

Twenty-five years later and after careers of building street rods, drag racing, dirt track racing, and teaching at a technical school, I entered college just to find out what I really wanted to do with my life. Within my freshman year I settled on the motivation to earn a degree in both anthropology and history at Washburn University. I wish I had kept track of the number of times when people have asked me "what can YOU do with a degree in history?" Two different things come to mind with the question. First, when they refer to me directly as "YOU," I feel that my nontraditional look and background would not fulfill the model of a historian. But then there is more to history than just teaching. Teachers are great people. My own experience with teaching was rewarding but I would rather discover history than just teach it. This takes me back to my idea about being a very young explorer a long time ago. In his book, *Outside Lies Magic*, John R. Stilgoe vividly rekindles my childhood experience in the Kansas summers.

"Discovery is not elementary perhaps, but rarely impossible, rarely especially difficult. Exploration is second nature, a second nature intimately linked to the adolescent days of tattered sneakers . . ."

I can remember about every pair of worn out shoes that I donned to explore. I can still feel the sand and mud from the cracked soles as we tried to salvage the bank safe blown up many years ago by thieves in the creek bank or the unsuccessful attempt to recover a whiskey barrel full of sand in the creek. These all helped to build my character; time passes and we grow up.

This past year I have completed two internships through both the anthropology and history departments at Washburn University. Both have allowed me to research historical articles, books, and newspapers of buildings, schools, and opera houses from the late 19th century into the 1910s. Oral histories can be fascinating, as well. I wish sometimes that I had listened more to my grandparents' stories of our family! This semester I am finishing my internship in the State Historic Preservation Office of the Kansas Historical Society. This became an opportunity to do the groundwork to assist with a later enhancement of the KSHS website of historic properties. My mentor, Sarah Martin, National Register coordinator, created a detailed and structured agenda for my duties. In those, I have worked with the U. S. Geological Survey mapping system to assign U.T.M. coordinates for nominations. I have also created the photographs for some of the recent nominations, made site visits, attended the Historic Sites Board of Review meetings, and presented the National Register nomination of the Waterville Opera House to the board of review.

I assisted with the research in creating the nomination for the opera house. We lacked historical documentation on the architect, a close approximation of the dates of construction, and the events leading up to construction. Our research revealed issues regarding the rights of women to vote in the city election. This information further enhanced the nomination for its significance under Criterion A (association with significant events in history).

Several hours and days were devoted to reviewing newspapers at the State Archives & Library. It is easy to get off track reading the *Waterville Telegraph*, *Blue Valley Clipper*, and *Blue Rapids Times*. You begin to feel like part of the story. Most of the significant information was found in issues of the *Waterville Telegraph* from June 6, 1902 to July 31, 1903 when the building was dedicated to the city.

Early in its planning, the newspaper asked everyone, male and female over the age of 18, to vote for the bonds to build the opera house. The following week, the request was rescinded while the editor explained that the paper had erred in asking the women to vote. State law allowed women to vote for council members, not the disbursement of funds. I found many more stories about the city and its residents for the next year through these news articles – who went where, who built what, and even an ongoing argument between editors of two newspapers. This was an excellent opportunity to learn about Kansas history.

This past year I have learned about some of the current politics involved with historic preservation. Patience is a true virtue when assisting others in making decisions for themselves about their properties and those affected by change. I hope to continue interning at KSHS until I graduate so that I can pursue a career in historic preservation.

Just the "green" facts …

A familiar debate for historic property owners, especially when questioning energy efficiency, is whether to replace historic windows with new. It is thought that windows are a major source of energy loss, however, the opposite is true. Other misnomers abound regarding historic windows vs. replacement windows.

Some statistics:

- A 1997 Vermont study of historic windows not only noted that a historic window can be made energy efficient if properly weatherized and augmented with a good storm window system, but it also can be more cost effective than replacing with new.

- Regardless of lifetime guarantees for replacement windows, 30 percent of windows being replaced every year are less than 10 years old (that's a lot of vinyl in the landfills!)

- According to the U.S. Department of Energy, windows are really only responsible for approximately 10 percent of thermal loss in the average building. Statistics show that floors, walls, and ceilings are responsible for a much greater percentage of energy loss.

Patrice Frey offered these statistics while presenting "Sustainable Stewardship: Promoting the Preservation Ethic to Combat Climate Change," at the 2008 Kansas State Historic Preservation Conference this past spring. Her insightful recommendations on the aspects of good stewardship start with knowing what is being thrown away. Retaining materials that have stood the test of time is not only better for your building, but also better for the environment. In this regard, property owners can be good stewards of their building as well as their surroundings.

Learning About Cultures, Past and Present

by Lauren W. Ritterbush
Associate Professor of Anthropology, Kansas State University

Ask a classroom of upper-level elementary or middle school students if they are interested in archeology. Most likely you'll get an enthusiastic response with images of Indiana Jones popping to mind. But how does studying archeology help Kansas kids develop reading, writing, math, science, and other basic skills necessary for a successful future? To answer this question, poll the 16 educators and student teachers who participated in "Learning about Cultures, Past and Present," a professional development workshop offered in Manhattan, June 16-20, 2008.

The workshop was sponsored by the Kansas Historical Society (KSHS), the Equity and Access Project at Kansas State University (KSU), and Project Archaeology, a national heritage education program (projectarchaeology.org). Leading the instruction were professional archeologists Dr. Lauren W. Ritterbush (KSU), Virginia A. Wulfkuhle (KSHS), and educator Gail Lundeen (Lee's Summit, Missouri). They were assisted by Dr. Brad Burenheide of the KSU College of Education and Lisa Bietau, teacher-in-residence with the Equity and Access Project. Participants came from school districts in Manhattan-Ogden, Junction City, Fort Riley, Wamego, Bern, and Shawnee Mission, as well as undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in the KSU College of Education.

Virginia Wulfkuhle presents a segment of the nation Investigating Shelter unit, which instructs students to pretend that they are archeologists and answer the question, "What can we learn about history and culture of the Pawnee by investigating an earthlodge?"

The workshop introduced the practicing and future educators to three integrated curricula for elementary and secondary students. The first, *Investigating Shelter: The Pawnee Earthlodge*, has been developed by national Project Archaeology in close collaboration with the KSHS and consultation with the Pawnee Indian Nation. National education standards in social studies, language arts, science, mathematics, history, and geography, and the life skills of thinking and reasoning are adeptly integrated into nine Investigating Shelter lessons. Prior to presenting the June workshop, all instructors were formally trained as facilitators for this national curriculum.

The workshop participants gained first-hand experience as they worked through lessons in scientific inquiry (observation, inference, classification) and basic concepts of archeology (e.g., context), just as students will in the classroom. Newly gained knowledge was then applied to understanding the Pawnee earthlodge by using authentic data derived from archeological investigations at the Pawnee Indian Museum State Historic Site (14RP1) in Republic County. On the third day of the workshop the group took a field trip to the site. Seeing the actual excavated floor of the Pawnee earthlodge that they had just been studying, along with museum displays and an excellent tour by site administrator Richard Gould, made the Pawnee culture and the work of archeologists come alive! An added bonus was visiting with archeologists who were conducting excavations of another earthlodge at 14RP1. (Find an article on the 2008 Kansas Archeology Training Program field school in an upcoming issue.)

In addition to the national Project Archaeology shelter curriculum, workshop participants were introduced to two other units designed by KSHS staff specifically for use in Kansas classrooms. This curriculum addresses state education standards in reading, writing, science, geography, history, and civics-government. On day four of the "Learning About Cultures" workshop, participants explored *The Archaeology of Early Agriculture in Kansas*. They learned that something as

The energetic workshop participants are still smiling as they gather for a group photo after their final performance of understanding in which they created persuasive presentations to communicate the importance of preserving archeological resources.

simple as an ancient seed can help archeologists track the agricultural heritage of the state back more than 2,000 years. On the final day, a middle-school-level unit, entitled *Migration of the Pueblo People to El Cuartelejo*, involved workshop participants in direct learning about migration and a 17th-century pueblo site in southwestern Kansas. As they discovered, primary source materials – including archeological remains, oral histories, and original historical documents – must be used to evaluate the sometimes-contradictory accounts of migration and cultural interaction.

In addition to exploring the fascinating stories of past Kansas cultures through archeology and scientific and historical inquiry, each unit emphasizes the stewardship of Kansas' cultural heritage. Lessons guide students to think about their civic responsibilities. Through their final performances of understanding, the workshop participants demonstrated that ethical issues require clear understanding of archeology, deep analysis, and reflective thought within personal contexts that accentuate enduring learning.

Throughout the workshop the participants experienced the curricula through active learning. They found new and exciting ways to integrate multiple subject areas – importantly, those addressed by national and state education standards. It was obvious that they also developed much greater appreciation for archeology, especially as applied in Kansas. Their excitement in learning and future use of these materials was clearly evident in the enthusiasm they carried throughout the week, despite a demanding five-day schedule. The co-sponsors of the workshop hope to continue these valuable training programs for engaged learning in different regions of Kansas in the future.

Preservation in the News (continued from inside front cover)

Tornados

A tornado struck Chapman on Wednesday, June 11, 2008, devastating the small Dickinson County town. Several historic buildings were heavily damaged including the public schools, houses, churches, and downtown buildings. The only National Register-listed property impacted by the tornado was the rural St. Patrick's Mission Church and School located northeast of Chapman. The church was destroyed, leaving only rubble and the foundation remaining.

To read more about the Chapman tornado:
- **"Storm part of major one striking heartland" www.abilene-rc.com – June 13, 2008**

One of the barns recently surveyed during the *Historic Agriculture-Related Resources in Kansas* barn survey was destroyed by a tornado that tore a path through Decatur County on May 22, 2008. Brenda Spencer documented and photographed the barn during her field survey in the summer of 2007. The owner had been working with the State Historic Preservation Office to nominate the barn for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

New Cultural Resources Staff

Michelle Holmes

Michelle Holmes joined the Cultural Resources staff in May as a part-time morning office assistant. Currently a Washburn University student, Holmes plans to eventually pursue a degree in art therapy and graphic design at Emporia State University.

Before coming to the Kansas Historical Society, Holmes worked as a librarian for the Boys and Girls Club of Topeka, and as a para note-taker at Jardine Middle School.

Kim Norton

Kim joined the Cultural Resources staff in June as the Review & Compliance Coordinator. Originally from St. Louis, Kim received a degree in interior design from the University of Missouri in Columbia. She received her master's in historic preservation from Clemson University with specific training in early American architecture and interiors. As an intern with Historic Charleston Foundation in South Carolina, Kim completed a historic structure report for a ca. 1738 plantation site. As a student, Kim completed measured drawings, along with several other students, for the Historic American Buildings Survey that was featured in *Traditional Building Magazine*.

Her duties will include reviewing projects for state and federal guideline compliance and assisting with Certified Local Government training. Previously, Kim worked in Tampa as an architectural historian, conducting surveys for a private cultural resources management firm.

Chris Munz-Pritchard

Chris joined the Cultural Resources Division in June as Senior Administrative Assistant for the Contract Archeology Program. Before joining the Kansas Historical Society, Chris worked at the Kansas Department of Transportation. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in regional and community planning at Kansas State University.

Volunteers and Interns Needed

The Cultural Resources Division is looking for volunteers and/or interns to help update the online National Register and Historic Resources Inventory databases. Duties will include scanning National Register nominations and photographs and researching files to update existing records. We need up to five volunteers and/or interns during regular work hours, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday – Friday. If interested, please contact Deb Beasterfeld at 785-272-8681, ext. 240; dbeasterfeld@kshs.org

CORRECTION

In our last issue, we misspelled the name of our new office manager, Deb Beasterfeld. Our apologies!

Historic Sites Board of Review

The Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review is a group of 11 professionals from various fields that meets quarterly to review and recommend nominations to the National Register of Historic Places and the Register of Historic Kansas Places, and award preservation planning and rehabilitation grants. As prescribed by the Kansas Historic Preservation Act of 1977 (K.S.A. 75-2719), the board is comprised of the following members: the governor or the governor's designee, the state historic preservation officer or such officer's designee, and nine members appointed by the governor for three-year terms. At least one member must be professionally qualified in each of the following disciplines: architecture, history, prehistoric archeology, historical archeology, and architectural history.

Jennie Chinn, State Historic Preservation Officer
Craig Crosswhite, Ness City, chair
J. Eric Engstrom, Wichita, governor's designee, vice chair
John W. Hoopes, Lawrence
Nancy Horst, Winfield
Leo Oliva, Stockton
Billie Marie Porter, Neodesha
Daniel Sabatini, Lawrence
David H. Sachs, Manhattan
James E. Sherow, Manhattan
Margaret Wood, Topeka

Cultural Resources Division
State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and Archeology Staff

Jennie Chinn
Preservation Officer (SHPO)
785-272-8681, ext. 205
jchinn@kshs.org

Deb Beasterfeld
Office Manager
785-272-8681, ext. 240
dbeasterfeld@kshs.org

Tod Bevitt
Highway Archeologist
785-272-8681, ext. 267
tbevitt@kshs.org

Dorothy Booher
Office Assistant
785-272-8681, ext. 230
dbooher@kshs.org

Anita Frank
Archeology Office
785-272-8681, ext. 268
afrank@kshs.org

Chris Garst
Laboratory Archeologist
785-272-8681, ext. 151
cgarst@kshs.org

Bob Hoard
State Archeologist
785-272-8681, ext. 269
rhoard@kshs.org

Michelle Holmes
Administrative Assistant
785-272-8681, ext. 230
mholmes@kshs.org

Kristen Johnston
Tax Credit & National Register
785-272-8681, ext. 213
kjohnston@kshs.org

Marsha Longofono
Tax Credit Clerk
785-272-8681, ext. 233
mlongofono@kshs.org

Sarah Martin
National Register
785-272-8681, ext. 216
smartin@kshs.org

Caitlin Meives
Survey Coordinator
785-272-8681, ext. 257
cmeives@kshs.org

Chris Munz-Pritchard
Senior Administrative Assistant
Contract Archeology Program
785-272-8681, ext. 235
cpritchard@kshs.org

Kim Norton
Review and Compliance Coordinator
785-272-8681, ext. 225
knorton@kshs.org

Katrina Ringler
Grants Manager/CLG Coordinator
785-272-8681, ext. 215
kringler@kshs.org

Kimberly Smith
Grants Reviewer
785-272-8681, ext. 227
ksmith@kshs.org

Cindy Vahsholtz
Grants Clerk
785-272-8681, ext. 245
cvahsholtz@kshs.org

Tricia Waggoner
Highway Archeologist
785-272-8681, ext. 258
twaggoner@kshs.org

Julie Weisgerber
Review & Compliance
785-272-8681, ext. 226
jweisgerber@kshs.org

Tim Weston
SHPO Archeologist
785-272-8681, ext. 214
tweston@kshs.org

Virginia Wulfkuhle
Public Archeologist
785-272-8681, ext. 266
vwulfkuhle@kshs.org

Patrick Zollner
Division Director &
Deputy SHPO
785-272-8681, ext. 217
pzollner@kshs.org

CONTACT US

Happenings in Kansas

Online at kshs.org/calendar

Through January 4, 2009
Forces of Nature
Exhibit at the Kansas Museum of History, Topeka

Fridays July 18 – August 8, 2008
Sundown Film Festival
Kansas Historical Society, Topeka
The Wizard of Oz (July 18)
Airport (July 25)
Paper Moon (August 1)
Twister (August 8)

August 16, 2008
Historic Sites Board of Review
Quarterly Meeting
Kansas Historical Society, Topeka

August 17, 2008
Band Concert and Ice Cream Social
Kaw Mission State Historic Site, Council Grove

August 20, 2008
Historic Preservation Fund Workshop
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Kansas Historical Society, Topeka

August 20, 2008
Informational Session on Survey and
National Register Districts
1:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Kansas Historical Society, Topeka

August 31, 2008
Pony Express Festival
Hollenberg Pony Express Station
State Historic Site, Hanover

September 9, 2008
Heritage Trust Fund Workshop 10 a.m.
Tax Credit 1:30 p.m.
Kansas Historical Society, Topeka

October 1, 2008
Historic Preservation Fund draft applications due
Kansas Historical Society, Topeka

November 17, 2008
Historic Preservation Fund Grant applications
due by 4:30 p.m.
Kansas Historical Society, Topeka

November 22, 2008
Historic Sites Board of Review
Quarterly Meeting
Kansas Historical Society, Topeka

December 9, 2008
Heritage Trust Fund Workshop 10 a.m.
Tax Credit 1:30 p.m.
Kansas Historical Society, Topeka

KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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